

## A Note on “Family Tree of the Bharata Clan” derived from the Five Early Mandalas

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Before we take up the subject for discussion, there is a need to throw light on a historical fact of **Mughal** time. **Babur**, the founder of **Mughal Dynasty** in India was a direct descendent of **Timur**, invaded India and established his rule in the year 1526 AD in North India. Whenever a present-day writer or a historian speaks about **Babur’s son**, then it is clear that he/she actually means his son **Humayun** only and neither his grandson **Akbar** nor his notorious descendent **Aurangzeb** nor even the last **Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah II** who was arrested and imprisoned by the **British Army** after the failed mutiny of year **1857 AD**.

Now keeping above thing in the back of our mind, we shall minutely look into the references regarding the members of **Bharata Clan** present in **Mandala-2 of Rigved**.

In the verse-1 and 4 of the hymn **Rv-2.7** dedicated to **Agni** we find two separate references of **Bharatagne/ भारताग्ने** term; meaning thereby, a **special Yajna** was being conducted in the name of a king belonging to **Bharata** clan (assuming).

In the verse **Rv-2.36,2** addressed to **Maruts**, there is a reference of **Bharata’s Sons** (भरतस्य सूनवः/plural) wherein the Poet has requested them to enjoy **Soma** drink along with **Maruts** [1].

**Rv-2.36,2** : *yajñaiḥ sammiślāḥ prṣatībhīrṣṭībhiryāmañchubhrāso añjiṣu priyā uta |*  
*āsadyā barhirbharatasya sūnavāḥ potrādā somaṃ pibatā divo naraḥ ||*

Busied with sacrifice, with spotted deer and spears, gleaming upon your way with ornaments, yea, our friends,  
Sitting on sacred grass, ye Sons of Bharata, drink Soma from the Potar's bowl, O Men of heaven.

Here the basic question is, “who are the “**Sons of Bharata**” of the verse **Rv-2.36,2**?”

As we know from the **Mandala-7 verse (Rv-7.18,25)** ; Bharata king **Sudasa** was the son of **Divodasa**. Similarly, **Mandala-6 verse Rv-6.47,25** informs us that Bharata king **Divodasa** was the son of **Srnjaya**. Additionally, **Mandala-4 verse Rv-4.15,4** tells us that Bharata king **Srnjaya** was the son of **Devavata**.

Although Rigvedic Poets of **Mandala-4, 6 and 7** have independently called **Srnjaya**, **Divodasa** and **Sudasa** as the **Bharatas**, bringing all three kings/ tribe leaders under the **clan of Bharata**, but no poet has directly termed anyone of them as the “**son of Bharata**”.

But after scrutiny of **All Five Early Mandalas**, a **Mandala-3** praise-song reveals that in the verse **Rv-3.23,2** the Poet has denoted both **Devavata** and **Devasravasa** as the **Bharatas**.

**Rv-3,23,2:** *amanthiṣṭām bhāratā revadaghnīm devaśravā devavātaḥ sudakṣam /  
agne vi paśya br̥hatābhi rāyeṣām no netā bhavatādanu dyūn ||*

# **Both Bharatas, Devasravas, Devavata**, have strongly rubbed to life effectual Agni.

O Agni, look thou forth with ample riches: be, every day, bearer of food to feed us.

Also in the **verse-3** of the same hymn the Composer has linked “**Agni of Yajna**” with **Devavata** indirectly hinting at **Devavata** was the leader of the **Bharata tribe** in **Mandala-3**.

**Rv-3.23,3 :** *daśa kṣipah pūrvyaṃ sīmajījanan sujātaṃ mātṛṣu priyam /  
agniṃ stuhi daivavātaṃ devaśravo yo janānāmasad vaśī ||*

# Him nobly born of old the fingers ten produced, him whom his Mothers counted dear.

Praise **Devavata's Agni**, thou **Devasravas**, him who shall be the people's Lord.

Based on the examination of relevant data taken from all **Five Early Family Mandalas**, it can be said that **Devavata** and **Devasravasa** are the actual names of the **sons of Bharata/ bharatasya sūnavaḥ** of the verse **Rv-2,36,2** (only reference depicting more than **one son**).

Then it is obvious that a special reference of **Bharata's Agni** mentioned in the hymn **Rv-2.7 (twice)** makes the character **Bharata** as the founder of “**Bharata**” dynasty of **Rigved**. It also manifests that during the composition of **Mandala-2**, **Bharata** and **his sons** were present.

Above investigation also intimates us about **Mandala-wise leaders of Bharata clan** at the time of composition of the **Five Early Mandalas** and they are; **Mandala-2: Bharata;** **Mandala-3: Devavata;** **Mandala-4: Srnjaya;** **Mandala-6: Divodasa;** **Mandala-7: Sudasa.**

Please note that above information has been sourced from **Rigved only** (first-hand source) that formed the basis for the present study and the example of **Mughal Dynasty** has been given just to make the subject understandable.

#### Reference:

1. “**Rig Veda**”(Bilingual), Translated by **Ralph T. H. Griffith (1896)** in PDF (indicated by symbol-# in the present text).